Intrusion by Pakistan spying aircraft

†1402. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) number of times Pakistan's spying aircraft intruded in Indian territory by violating international border during the last year; and

(b) the concrete steps taken by Government to prevent it?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There were seven incidents of violation of Indian air space by Pakistan's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) during the last year (1st January, 2002 to 31st December, 2002).

(b) The Indian Air Force has the requisite air defence mechanisms in place to monitor and thwart intrusions by any aircraft. Protests are also lodged with the concerned country through diplomatic channels.

Intrusion by Pakistan's surveillance aircraft in poonch

†1403. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an unmanned surveillance aircraft of Pakistan had recently entered into Indian airspace in mater sector of District Poonch on a spying mission;

(b) if so, whether India had shot down the aircraft by anti-aircraft gun;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government of India has lodged any protest with the Government of Pakistan in this regard; and

(e) if so, reaction of Government of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. One Pakistani Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) that intruded into Indian air space on 5th February, 2003 was shot down in Mendhar, J&K.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.